

Recognizing the Danger

There are some times when kids are abducted because of what they have said online to a stranger. This means that they are taken against their will. Abduction involves people doing bad things to you or asking you to do things to them that make you feel uncomfortable.

Here's the hard part: Could you spot an abductor online? Online predators can be anybody: a coach, a teacher, a religious person, a business man, or even a next-door neighbor you have known for years. They don't always look mean or scary. They can be friendly, helpful, and offer to be your friend. Just remember that anyone can harm you.

The good news is that most kids who are abducted are returned home safely. However, you can make sure it does not happen at all by being safe online and not sharing any personal information!

Take this quick quiz to see how smart you are about stranger danger!

- 1. Who should you tell your passwords to?**
 - a. Your parents
 - b. A friend
 - c. All your friends
 - d. Everyone
- 2. If someone sends you an inappropriate message, what should you do?**
 - a. Don't do anything
 - b. Don't reply and tell your parents
 - c. Tell the person to stop
 - d. Keep it a secret
- 3. If someone is a friend online, but you have never met them in person, he or she is:**
 - a. A friend and can be trusted
 - b. The person he or she claims to be
 - c. Someone you can tell your secrets
 - d. Someone you should be cautious of, because you don't really know them in person

Answers: 1. a, 2. b, 3. d



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PROTECT YOURSELF! AGAINST Online Stranger Danger

WHAT TO DO

HOW TO RESPOND

WHO TO TELL

HOW TO BLOCK

RECOGNIZING

PROTECTING





10 Stranger Danger Tips

Some people you meet online might not be very nice. They may be adults pretending to be kids, trying to get information from you so they can find you (and maybe hurt you) in real life. So it is very important that you be very careful when you are online.

1 No Personal Information!
Never give out personal information (such as name, age, address, phone number, school, town, schedule, or picture) or fill out questionnaires or other forms online.

2 Supervised First Meetings
Don't enter a chat room without the permission of your parents. Let them sit in on the first couple of sessions to make sure you are all comfortable with the discussion and who is online.

3 Be Suspicious
Be suspicious of anyone who tries to turn you against your parents, teachers, or friends. He or she may want to separate you from any help so he or she can get to you alone.

4 Don't Talk Back!
Don't respond to messages from strangers. Nor should you get involved in a conversation that makes you feel uncomfortable. Log off immediately and tell your parents.

5 No Pictures
Don't send your picture to anyone online, even a friend, without permission of your parents. Friends aren't always trustworthy and you don't know what they will do with your picture. If you do send a picture, let your parents look at it first. You don't want to have anything in the background that would give away where you live.

6 Don't Open That!
Don't open anything from a stranger (link, e-mail, picture, or program). That stranger might be sending you a virus or dirty photos.

7 Secret Passwords
Don't tell anyone but your parents what your password(s) is ... even your best friend. Friends can have fights and you might not be able to trust him or her anymore.

8 Be Nice!
Don't send out mean or threatening messages, and don't respond to mean or threatening messages sent to you.

9 Don't Buy It
If you find something online that you really want to buy, ask your parents for help. Predators can gather lots of information about you and your family when you buy something. Parents know what to look for and can make sure ordering online is safe. You also shouldn't enter a new area of the internet that costs additional money without getting permission from your parents.

10 Don't Talk About It
Private family problems shouldn't be discussed online. Predators will try to sympathize with you and listen to your problems, all the while gathering information about you so they can get you to meet them alone.

